

# 'Ivan' Much Like GI, Is Gay, Friendly and Generous to New Pals

By HAL BOYLE, Associated Press War Correspondent.

WITH SOVIET TROOPS ON THE ELBE, April 28.—American soldiers were surprised to find that "Ivan," the typical Russian private, was pretty much like his GI counterpart.

An American sergeant who spent the afternoon of the link-up riding around with Russian officers thought they were pretty much like Yank officers.

"They seemed to be acting under the same kind of orders as our officers do," said Sgt. Gerald E. Herrstadt, New York City.

"And they treated German civilians in exactly the same way we do. While we were riding around one Russian worker came up and complained he had been mistreated by his German overseer, and wanted him shot immediately."

"The Russian officer was sympathetic, but told him 'There will have to be an inquiry before there is any shooting.'"

## Nazis Fear Red Retribution.

German civilians, however, retain their dread of Russian retribution which the Berlin radio has been chanting into their ears and fears for months.

Most residents of Torgau on the western bank of the Elbe fled the city ahead of the Soviet troops. When we drove through to meet the Russians we found only a few elderly Germans in the streets. One was picking up stray cigarette butts and another was rummaging in junk heaps for scraps of food.

After seeing the way the German units gave up to the Americans rather than face front-line action against the Russians, one is inclined to believe Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels oversold his "Soviet terror" stories.

He did such a good job he scared many German soldiers into believing it was impossible to whip a Russian army.

## Carry Less Equipment.

Russian troops seem to carry much less equipment than ours. American soldiers usually are required to wear helmets, even in bivouac areas scores of miles behind the front. I never saw a single Russian soldier wearing a helmet along the Elbe River front. Mostly they wore overseas caps.

They also wore fewer knives and carried less mess equipment than the Yanks. Most of them had only a big spoon stuck in their black leather boots, or in their old-style, ragged, wrap-around leggings.

Their clothing was stained and worn, but the officers' uniforms were as neat and well-pressed as any Prussian Junker would require.

Almost every Russian carried in his arms or slung over his shoulder a wicked-looking, nose-nosed automatic pistol resembling our tommy gun. And every gun was in good condition.

## Supplied With Nazi Delicacies.

The Doughboys warned to the Russians quickly, because they were light hearted, boisterous and generous. As one soldier put it: "They shook hands with their right hands and offered you everything they had with their left."

They had unending supplies of captured German wines, sardines,



GI MEET RUSSIAN COUNTERPARTS—Three American soldiers get acquainted with three Russian fighting men after troops of the east and west fronts met in Germany. The Yanks, wearing helmets, are, from left: Pvt. George Atkinson, no home town given; Pfc. Orle Dekker, Passaic, N. J., and Pfc. Bill Diehl, Lancaster, Pa.

chocolate and spice cake to celebrate the junction meeting, and some American soldiers who arrived empty handed were a little shame faced because they had nothing to offer in return. But the Russians only seemed to want souvenirs.

The prize souvenirs were American dollar bills or United States insignia of any kind.

Russian hospitality was unbounded. They had bottomless capacity for liquors of all kinds, and drank it at a pace which American officers found impossible to match.

One American captain credited the Russian capacity for drinking to the fact they ate heavily from big bowls of fresh raw onions—one tumblerful of cognac to a handful of onions.

"I think I would rather take the hangover than the preventive," he said.

The Russians seemed to have more boys and more older men in the front lines than the American Army, and universally they looked tough, bronzed, seasoned and fit. Their discipline was easy going but excellent.

The Doughboys regarded the tanned Russian fighting women with great curiosity, but had little desire for closer acquaintance.

"You think twice before you try getting friendly with a gal toting a tommy gun," said a soldier. "She might misunderstand you."

## Russian Troops Free 18,000 Captives From Camp South of Berlin

By DON WHITEHEAD, Associated Press Correspondent.

WITH THE AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN TROOPS ON THE ELBE, April 28.—Russian troops have liberated 18,000 Allied prisoners of war, 3,000 of them Americans, from the Luchenwald prison camp south of Berlin.

Corpl. Darrell Durfee of Portland, Ore., who was liberated from the camp, brought the story through the Russian lines. He had been captured by the Germans February 17, 1943, when they broke through the lines of the 34th and 168th Divisions in the battle of Pele Pass.

A Russian tank accompanying an armored car crashed through the barbed-wire inclosures and brought liberty to the thousands of prisoners who had been crowded into a compound built to accommodate not more than 4,000, Durfee said.

Stripped of Uniforms.

Amor Carter, Jr., son of the Fort Worth publisher, was believed to have been held at Luchenwald, but Durfee said he did not know Carter and could not say whether he was among those who had been taken to be sent to the American lines.

Durfee said he had not been at Luchenwald long enough to learn the names of many other prisoners. "The Germans treated me O.K.," he said, "but they gave many of the boys some brutal treatment. There were men taken prisoner in the big German drive last December who were stripped of their shoes and marched barefoot through the snow."

"Most of them were stripped of their uniforms, too, and given dark green uniforms instead. During the March many of them suffered frozen feet, and some had to have amputations."

Durfee said the prisoners lived in tents and barracks—400 to a tent—with open latrines only a few feet from them, and only two faucets to supply water for the entire camp.

Knocked Down Fences.

When the liberating tank and armored car reached the camp Wednesday, he said, the Russians took the camp's commander, and the tank knocked down the fences around the Russian compound.

The tank commander asked how many Russian prisoners were in good condition and could walk. Durfee said, adding that "those who could, walked out and picked up German rifles and machine pistols and machine guns, and went right into the battle with the other Russian troops."

The Russians advised the other Allied prisoners to stay in the compounds until they were evacuated through normal procedures, but some slipped out and began making their way to the American lines. Durfee was among them, and Thursday a Russian gave him a bicycle on which he pedaled to the Elbe where the Russians and Americans made their historic junction.

## New Swedish Envoy To Washington Named

By the Associated Press.

STOCKHOLM, April 28.—Herman Eriksson, former cabinet member, will become Sweden's minister to Washington October 1 when the present Minister, Volmar Botstrom, retires on pension, it was announced yesterday.

Mr. Eriksson, who is 53, served successively as Minister without portfolio, Minister of Supply and chief of the Trade Department from 1938 to 1944. He now heads the state liquor monopoly.

## Rust Epidemic Is Feared

Rust, most dreaded enemy of the wheat farmer, is on the rampage again, with indications that 1945 may rank as one of great rust epidemics such as destroy 100,000,000 or more bushels of bread grain.



Symbolizing the meeting of the two armies are Lt. William D. Robertson of Los Angeles, credited with being the first American soldier to shake hands with a Russian soldier at Torgau, and Lt. Alexander Sylvaschko of the Russian Army. They met on the east bank of the Elbe.



First Lt. H. L. Perlman (center), Brooklyn, chats with a Russian WAC and a Red soldier after the junction on the Elbe.

—AP Photos by Signal Corps Radio.

## Berlin (Continued From First Page.)

and down the steel and concrete caverns of the dark subways.

Surprises nothing as to what information they may have pointing to the presence of Hitler and other Nazi leaders in the capital, but there was a feeling here that some of the most dramatic days of the war would develop in the next few days.

Surprises undoubtedly lay ahead of the storm groups for the Nazis are employing every trick in the book and lots of new ones, including the use of desperate woman members of the party dressed in pretty clothes and armed with flowers, candies and Tommy guns.

Old men and young boys, who try to look with innocence on the Russians, are found in large numbers to be diversionists who, when not directing German mortar fire, are actually firing on the invaders.

The death of 6,000 Germans was illustrative of the bitterness of the struggle, which now has surged very near the Reichstag, chancellery, war ministry and other famous places in the very center of the city.

Russian units can see Unter den Linden down some streets on which they are battling. It is less than a quarter of a mile from some forward points. Brandenburg Gate, which the Nazis have stoned up in an effort to keep the Russians from holding a victory parade through it, is within rifle range.

Fighting rages around the State Opera House.

Battles moved into the Reich Theater in the sector of the captured Reichstag, and there were many hand-to-hand fights near the public library.

Soviet clashes took place near Berlin University in the same sector. To the east of this hotly contested region, Russians drove the Nazis down some main streets leading into Wilhelmstrasse.

Hand to hand struggles moved

# New U. S. 15th Army Is Slated to Become Army of Occupation

By the Associated Press.

SUPREME ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, PARIS, April 28.—The new American 15th Army will take over occupation of the United States section of Germany, it was indicated today.

Military government officers at the headquarters of the 15th commander, Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, asserted today there would be no pampering of Germans by occupation forces. The Americans are expected to occupy much of Southern Germany, a section now under attack by the 3d and 7th and the French 1st Armies.

German civilians will be allowed a diet one-third as bountiful as that of the American soldier and only slightly more than half as generous as the standard set for liberated Europe. Average German rations will total 1,150 calories.

At the office of Col. Thomas J. Moroney, former Dallas banker and now assistant chief of staff of G-5 under Gen. Gerow, an officer said German civilians could expect the slim diet in the months to come. A G-5 spokesman termed the 1,150-calorie maximum diet "meager" and asserted that German civilians were not getting that much to eat in some areas at present.

The spokesman said the amount Germans eat will depend directly on how willing they are to work now to re-establish their own food economy. He said food will be imported for Germans only if needed to prevent famine and disease. He added: "The policy is that German production shall be called upon to feed German civilians and also Russian, French, Belgian, Polish and other displaced persons now in Germany awaiting transport to return home."

"Food from Allied sources will be brought to Germany to feed displaced persons only after German resources have been exploited fully."

German diet control will be exercised by Allied occupation authorities through civilian and provincial officials and local mayors.

## Woman Held in Forgery Of Drug Prescriptions

Margaret White, 21, of 1115 N. street N.W., was held under \$1,000 bond today by United States Commissioner Needham C. Turnage for removal to Huntington, W. Va., to face charges of forging prescriptions for a drug last January.

The woman had jumped a \$1,000 bond here holding her on similar charges. Federal narcotics agents said. That case has been dismissed, they added.

## Western Front (Continued From First Page.)

shafter, Lindau, Ravensburg and Immenstadt.

The 3d Army's 86th Division advanced on Munich down the Berlin-Munich superhighway, gaining 9 miles overnight.

The Texas and Oklahoma (90th) Division crossed the Czechoslovakian frontier at a new point and reached Smaxov, 32 miles south-west of Pilsen and the great Skoda munitions works.

The 71st, 65th, 68th and 99th Divisions surged south of the Danube on a 50-mile front from the areas of the captured fortresses of Regensburg and Ingolstadt in advances up to 10 miles, closing down on the roof of the Bavarian redoubt. The new 97th Infantry Division was disclosed to be in action with the 3d Army.

Augsburg, third largest Bavarian city of 185,704 inhabitants, was the scene of Messerschmitt aircraft and diesel engine factories. The city was founded around 800 A.D. and the time of Christ and is dominated by a 10th century cathedral. Its fall left Hitler with only 10 cities of more than 100,000 persons.

A citizens committee met 7th Army divisional commanders yesterday to arrange its surrender.

## Mopup Around Landsberg

The 7th Army's Tiger and Cactus (103d) Divisions mopped up around Landsberg, 20 miles south of Augsburg and had vanguards closest to Munich. The Rabenhorst (424) Division captured Willrethszell, 35 miles from Munich, and the Thunderbird (45th) Division closed within the same distance of the city.

The disintegration of the confused and beaten German armies continued, and space, even as the captured German General Staff captured, Lt. Gen. Kurt Dittmar, predicted that Hitler would die in Berlin within a few days and that the war would end swiftly afterward.

Supreme Allied headquarters noted that 46,694 Germans surrendered Thursday, April 28, and total captives for Gen. Eisenhower's armies to 1,150,217 and the aggregate since D day to 2,488,922. The 7th Army took 23,000 prisoners yesterday and British seized 3,000.

The Guards Armored Division swung northward, liberating 4,000 British and French merchant marine prisoners at the Western-termed prison camp near Zeven.

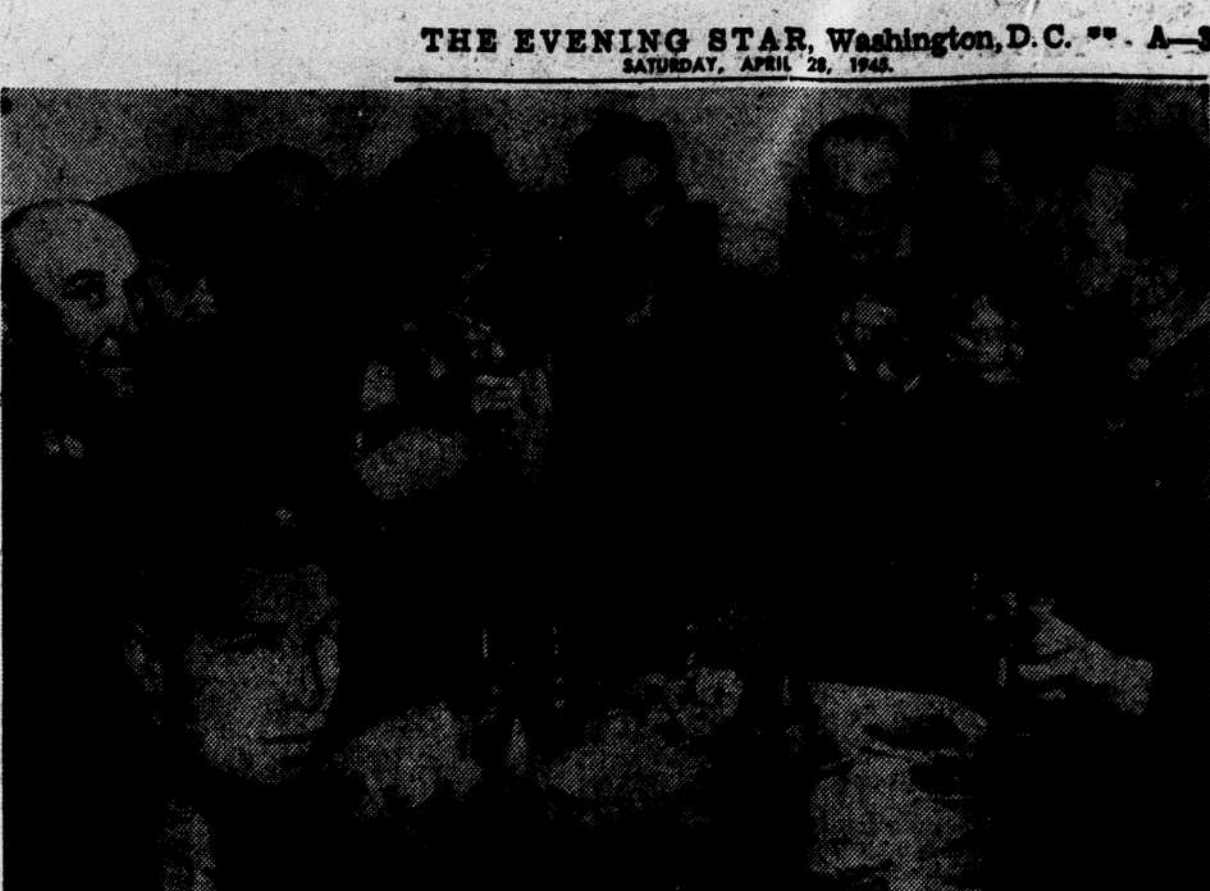
Canadian Tighen Lighters Arc.

The Canadian 1st Army tightened a siege arc around the road center of Oldenburg and beat against the defenses of the North Sea ports and naval bases of Emden and Wilhelmshaven.

Supreme headquarters disclosed that Maj. Gen. Clarence Huebner, commander of the 5th Corps, which includes the 1st Army's 69th Division, had received a battle flag from the major general commanding the Russian corps which fought all the way from Stalingrad on the Volga to the historic junction Wednesday and Thursday at Torgau, 28 miles north of Leipzig.

Operations of the 1st and 9th Armies along the Elbe were mostly blacked out, and the Russians said little of the campaign around the south and north pockets. Their main power was smashing Berlin back into the mud flats from which it sprang.

The Russians capture of Wittenberg, 26 miles northwest of Torgau and 17 east of American-held Dessau, suggested that the corridor between the southern and northern redoubts might be 50 miles wide by now. One junction had been made south of Torgau in the Reiss area close to the beleaguered Saxony capital of Dresden.



CELEBRATION IN ORDER—Glasses are lifted by Russian and American soldiers to toast the junction of their forces at Torgau, Germany, April 25. The woman in the picture is the only person identified. She is Ann Stringer, United Press correspondent.

—AP Photo by Signal Corps Radio.



The commanding general of the Russian 58th Infantry Division (left) prepares to drink a toast in vodka following the historic linkup. (Moscow dispatches identified him as Maj. Gen. Rusakov.) At right is Maj. Gen. Emil Reinhardt, commanding the 69th Infantry Division of the American 1st Army. Soldiers in background are Russian.

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can and Russian soldiers of all ranks with cameras.

"Give us some air," said Gen. Reinhardt as he finally shook off the mob.

Dined at Old Fortress.

Then the generals and their staffs walked up the long linden shaded avenue to the red brick fortress of Torgau, until lately the headquarters of German military courts dating back to Frederick the Great. It is one of the best known military sites in Germany.

Here the Russian general set up headquarters two days ago and awaited the Americans since his orders were to stay east of the Elbe except for necessary short patrols.

Gen. Reinhardt and his staff were taken to a low temporary building in a courtyard filled with cherry trees in bloom where they sat around a table half an hour toasting each other's countries in vodka, champagne and wine.

Then they crowded together around another table where a lunch of fried eggs was served.

"I am happy to have met the Americans. I am proud our countries are fighting together," said the Russian general.

## Soldiers Trade Insignia

Splitting Russian and American soldiers were milling around together splitting drinks and trading Russian for United States insignia.

They seemed to reach an understanding in common soldier language although very few on either side spoke both Russian and English.

It is curious how American and Russian soldiers have such a spontaneous liking for each other. They seem to think and act alike.

The Russians even look a lot like the Americans. This was most apparent today. This first completely unceremonious meeting is auspicious of a long friendship of the two countries.

The meeting of the generals was naturally slightly stage set, but it had a dramatic prelude during the past 24 hours.

## 30 Miles Apart for Days

The actual linkup was possible any time during the last six days with the two armies less than 30 miles apart. But extreme caution on both sides through fear of an international incident kept them from meeting.

Three American divisions drawn up on the west bank of the Mulde River were under strict instructions not to send patrols more than 3 miles east and not to fire eastward unless they were positive they were firing at Germans.

For the last two days outpost guards on the east bank of the Mulde were kept constantly at pe-

## Junction (Continued From First Page.)

possibly in a few days, will make these pockets a fact.

Speculation was running through Allied military circles here as to whether the armies which met this week south of Berlin would be shifted to one of the remaining fighting areas.

The junction brought face to face the American 1st Army and at least one army of Marshal Ivan S. Konev's 1st Ukrainian group. In the area north of the first meeting site, the American 9th Army also is at a standstill along the Elbe, waiting the imminent arrival of other Russian troops.

In Paris, such questions as these were being asked concerning these armies:

Would they take new positions somewhere else in Europe? Would they be pulled out of the line and sent home? Would they be used—Russians and Americans alike—in a final shattering blow in the Pacific?

"More bonds, more power—more strength to Eisenhower."

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